

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03537 01 OF 02 251131Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 IO-13 CIAE-00
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PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 DOE-15 SOE-02
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R 241245Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9714
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3537

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y ADD SECTION INFO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PROP, CH, RO
SUBJECT: CEAUSESCU TRIP TO CHINA: BUCHAREST PERSPECTIVES

REF: BUCHAREST 3292 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ROMANIAN MEDIA DEVOTED INTENSE AND HIGHLY
POSITIVE TREATMENT TO CEAUSESCU CHINA VISIT, ESPECIALLY
STRESSING THE EXTREMELY CORDIAL CHINESE RECEPTION FOR HIM.
WE ARE PARTICULARLY STRUCK BY CEAUSESCU'S VISITS TO
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PAGE 02 BUCAR 03537 01 OF 02 251131Z

MILITARY/DEFENSE INSTALLATIONS AND ABSENCE OF A JOINT
DECLARATION OR COMMUNIQUE AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT,
POSSIBLY DUE TO CHINESE INSISTENCE ON INCLUDING SOME
REFERENCE TO "HEGEMONISM" OR SIMILAR ANTI-SOVIET CODE
PHRASE WHICH ROMANIANS COULD NOT ACCEPT. MEDIA COVERAGE
OF VISIT IS SIHZILAR TO THAT GIVEN TO APRIL CEAUSESCU
STATE VISIT TO UNITED STATES, BUT DIKFERS IN SOME

IMPORTANT RESPECTS FROM THAT ACCORDED TO HIS PREVIOUS VISIT TO CHINA IN 1971. CEAUSESCU SEEMS TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HIS PRINCIPAL POLITICAL PURPOSE IN DEMONSTRATING GRAPHICALLY TO ALL INTERESTED OBSERVERS THAT ROMANIA-CHINA RELATIONS ARE SOLID AND CLOSE. END SUMMARY.

2. ROMANIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF ENTIRE MAY 15-21 CEAUSESCU VISIT TO CHINA CONTINUED AT SOME INTENSE LEVEL AS FIRST DAY (REFTEL). ALL MAJOR EVENTS ON ITINERARY WERE FULLY COVERED, INCLUDING EXCURSIONS TO CANTON AND HANGCHOW. THERE WAS LIBERAL USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SLANT WAS UNIFORMLY AND STRONGLY UPBEAT, STRESSING "MEMENTOUS" WELCOME CEAUSESCU PARTY RECEIVED EVERYWHERE FROM CHINESE PEOPLE AND OFFICIALDOM, EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH TALKS WERE CONDUCTED, THERE "FRUITFUL AND CONCRETE RESULTS," AND BILATERAL AND INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF VISIT, TEXT OF CEAUSESCU AND HUA TOASTS AT THE TAX STATE DINNERS WERE PREPRINTED IN FULL, APPARENTLY WITH NO EDITING OF LATTER'S REMARKS SINCE REFERENCES TO "HEGEMONISM" AND OTHERS ITEMS WHICH SET SOVIET TEETH TO GNASHING WERE LEFT IN. IN ADDITION, FULL TEXT OF LONG-TERM ECONOMIC AGREEMENT (BUCHAREST 3467) WAS PROMINENTLY PRINTED IN ALL DAILIES, A RATHER UNUSUAL DEVICE DESIGNED TO UNDERLINE SIGNIFICANCE WHICH GOR ATTACHES TO IT. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 BUCAR 03537 01 OF 02 251131Z

3. FROM BUCHAREST POINT OF VIEW, WE FIND SEVERAL ITEMS FROM ROMANIAN MEDIA REPORTING PARTICULARLY STRIKING. FACT THAT CEAUSESCU VISITED SIXTH TANK DIVISION WHERE HE WITNESSED MILITARY EXERCISES AND INSPECTED WEAPONS, THEN SUBSEQUENTLY TOURED PHYSICS INSTITUTE WHERE ITS DIRECTOR PROUDLY CITED ITS ROLE IN NATIONAL DEFENSE EFFORT INCLUDING NUCLEAR FIELD, MUST HAVE BEEN ESPECIALLY ANNOYING TO SOVIETS. WE ALSO FIND AGREEMENT TO EXCHANGE CONSULATES-GENERAL, PRESUMABLY AT SHANGHAI AND BLACK SEA PORT OF CONSTANTA, AS AN INTERESTING EXPANSION OF CHINESE PRESENCE IN EASTERN EUROPE. FINALLY, WE FIND ABSENCE OF ANY FINAL COMMUNIQUE, JOINT DECLARATION, OR SIMILAR STATEMENT AS HIGHLY UNUSUAL AND PROBABLY INDICATIVE THAT NO AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED OVER ITS WORDING, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF CHINESE INSISTENCE ON INCLUDING REFERENCE TO "HEGEMONISM" OR SOME SIMILAR TERM. WHILE ROMANIANS MIGHT SHARE CHINESE SENTIMENTS IN THIS REGARD, NEVERTHELESS THEY WOULD NOT SIGN A FORMAL DOCUMENT CONTAINING SUCH A BLATANT CODE-PHRASE ATTACK ON SOVIET UNION ANY MORE THAN THEY WOULD SIGN SOVIET-INSPIRED DECLARATIONS BLASTING PRC.

4. WE HAVE COMPARED ROMANIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF CHINA TRIP WITH THAT GIVEN CEAUSESCU STATE VISIT TO UNITED STATES ONE MONTH EARLIER AND FIND THEM BASICALLY SIMILAR IN TERMS OF COLUMN SPACE, USE OF PHOTOGRAPHS, AND STRONGLY POSITIVE TONE. TYPE OF PROGRAM IN TWO COUNTRIES WAS, OF COURSE, MARKEDLY DIFFERENT, MOST EVIDENT IN WIDE RANGE OF MEETINGS CEAUSESCU HELD IN UNITED STATES WITH BUSINESSMEN, ROMANIAN COMMUNITY LEADERS, AND JEWISH GROUPS. THERE HAVE BEEN NO TELEGRAMS FROM LOCAL ROMANIAN ORGANIZATIONS PRINTED YET PRAISING THE VISIT AS THERE WAS IN WAKE OF U.S. TRIP, BUT WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF THEY MATERIALIZE ONCE ENTIRE ASIAN SWING IS OVER. AS INTERESTING ADDENDUM, U.S. DESK OFFICER IN MFA STRESSED TO EMBOFF MAY 23 THAT CEAUSESCU'S U.S. TRIP IS "NO LESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 BUCAR 03537 01 OF 02 251131Z

IMPORTANT" THAN CHINA.

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PAGE 01 BUCAR 03537 02 OF 02 242049Z
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 BUCHAREST 3537

5. WE HAVE ALSO COMPARED ROMANIAN MEDIA COVERAGE OF CURRENT CHINA TRIP TO THAT OF 1971 VISIT AND FIND BASIC SIMILARITY WITH A FEW NOTABLE DIFFERENCES. THE 1971 VISIT WAS LONGER--NINE FULL DAYS-- AND THERE WAS A LENGTHY FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE. IN ADDITION TO PEKING, CEAUSESCU ALSO TOURED NANKING AND SHANGHAI, IN CONTRAST TO CANTON AND HANGCHOW THIS TIME. IN 1971 CEAUSESCU VISITED MORE VARIED PRODUCTION UNITS--COMMUNAL FARMS, A PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX, THE SHANGHAI SHIPYARDS--AND OFTEN MADE SPEECHES TO THE ASSEMBLED WORKERS THERE, WHICH HE DID NOT DO THIS TIME. HOWEVER, THERE WERE NO MILITARY OR DEFENSE UNITS INCLUDED IN PREVIOUS ITINERARY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 BUCAR 03537 02 OF 02 242049Z

AND NO MAJOR AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED.

6. COMMENT: FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, CEAUSESCU SEEMS TO HAVE ACCOMPLISHED HIS PRIMARY POLITICAL PURPOSE IN DEMONSTRATING GRAPHICALLY TO ALL INTERESTED OBSERVERS THAT ROMANIA-CHINA RELATIONS ARE VERY CLOSE AND POSITIVE AND THAT, EVEN WITH CLOSER CHINA-YUGOSLAV RELATIONS AND AN INCREASED CHINESE INTEREST IN THE WORLD, ROMANIA IS STILL CHINA'S BEST FRIEND (AND VICE VERSA) IN EASTERN EUROPE. AGGREY

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